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(1) New U.S. Ambassador to Japan Roos, a man of foresight

FACTA (Pages 74 and 75) (Excerpts)
August 2009 issue

Ryuichi Teshima, foreign affairs journalist

Anyone who has known the name John Roos, the person who has been appointed as new U.S. ambassador to Japan by President Barack Obama, must be well-versed in the American political world. This Silicon Valley lawyer is a hidden heavyweight in American Democratic political circles. Gifted with foresight to determine which firm among hundreds of ventures will grow into a Google of tomorrow, Roos has amassed tremendous wealth and fortune by investing in such firms. The bright vision nurtured in entrepreneurial circles must have helped him acquire an observant eye toward lawmakers. Roos has provided enormous funds to Barack Obama ahead of others since he was still virtually unknown. Roos played a major role in the birth of President Obama behind the scenes.

Barack Obama and John Roos were on the side of the camp of a candidate who was defeated in the 2000 presidential election. They both supported Bill Bradley, who ran in the 2000 presidential

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primaries, opposing incumbent Vice President Al Gore for his party's nomination. Bradley, an American hall of fame basketball player and a former Senator, was described even by his political opponent as having sufficient qualifications for the presidency. Bradley also served as captain of the gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic basketball team in the (1964) Tokyo Olympics. He also studied at the University of Oxford on the Rhodes scholarship. He then (returned to the U.S.) to join the New York Knicks, where he became a star player. He was known for his good teamwork with black players. He was also called by his fellow players as "wanderer Bill" because of his humble clothes.

This can tell of what type of politicians Obama and Roos liked to support. As a Senator, Bradley established himself as a policy expert by steadily tackling such themes as tax reform that were shunned by other lawmakers. It was said that he would enter the White House in the future. At long last, he bestirred himself and entered the 2000 presidential election. But Bradley, who abhorred grandstanding before the media, was not fit to become a vice presidential candidate. "The presidential credibility was undermined by the Lewinsky scandal." Bradley was the kind of person who delivers a compelling speech in the countryside. Wanderer Bill's defeat helped cement the bond between Obama and Roos and they vowed to regain control of the White House based on that bitter lesson.

Roos threw a fund-raising party at his home in a San Francisco suburb even a year before the party's nomination for the 2008 presidential election began. The party raised a total of 300,000 dollars for his close friend, Senator Barack Obama, from some 1,000 people. The amount was whopping as election funds raised at a time like that. There was also Hillary Clinton, a shoo-in, in the Democratic Party. Democratic professionals had no doubt that Hillary would achieve an overwhelming victory.

It takes a lot of faith and commitment to invest that much money in a candidate who might be defeated. To the Obama camp, the funds raised by Roos must have looked like gracious rain after a long drought. Funds can instantly enliven an election campaign. Support ratings go up, people and money roll in, and the election machine snowballs. The funds raised by Roos served as seed money for the Obama camp that was necessary for the election machine to set in motion. Room himself contributed 545,000 dollars to Obama.

It can be said that Roos' battle record only consists of defeats. In

the presidential races in which Roos took the leadership on the West Coast, candidates he backed -- Walter Mondale, Bradley, and John Kerry -- all suffered defeats. The 2008 presidential election might have been the last battle for Roos. There are three things that allow exerting influence on the U.S. President: funds, votes, and policies. There is no other way but to make decisive contributions to the President in one of the three. Roos discovered Obama, an unlisted issue so to speak, and invested large sums of money in him, advised him to promote the Green New Deal, and nurtured him into a popular listed issue people are vying to purchase.

(Harvard University) Professor Joseph Nye, who was reported by the Japanese media as informally nominated as ambassador to Japan, was close to the Clinton family. I think when President Obama had a list of two individuals -- Roos and Nye - he did not have any trouble picking the one to whom he is indebted.

How will Japan look in the eyes of new U.S. Ambassador John Roos, a
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reputed visionary? Japan and China are currently the world's second and third largest economy, respectively, but they are likely to trade their positions in the near future. I am certain that Roos thinks that if Japan uses a solid management strategy, the country can still build its own footing in East Asia. If the new administration to be launched after the upcoming general election presents a Japan revitalization grand design to the new U.S. ambassador, he will probably sell Japan shares to President Obama, his close friend, to counter China. That is because there are unlimited areas in which Japan and the United States can cooperate in advancing green revolution. But if Japan remains idle, Roos is certain to give up on Japan and decides to "sell off Japan."

(2) DPJ foreign policy caught in double bind

ASAHI (Page 2) (Excerpts)
July 24, 2009

With an eye to a change in government, the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) has moved toward a practical policy line in its foreign and security policies. Out of consideration to relations with the U.S., the DPJ has begun to tolerate the Maritime Self-Defense Force's (MSDF) refueling mission in the Indian Ocean and to tone down its call for reviewing the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). But the DPJ remains unable to make a complete policy switch in part because the party needs to give consideration to the Social Democratic Party (SDP), with which the DPJ intends to form a coalition in the event that the party takes over the reins of government. The ruling parties have begun to attack the DPJ over its policy switch.

SDF reacts to consideration to U.S.

The DPJ released its policy index for 2009 yesterday. In past national election years, the annual report tended to be overshadowed by the campaign manifesto, but its policy index this year is unusually drawing much attention. That is because the index cites about 300 policies that spilled out of its manifesto and the DPJ, if it wins the next House of Representatives election, will review the conventional government policies in accordance with the policy index.

A manifesto focuses mainly on domestic affairs, but a policy index shed light on foreign and security policies. The DPJ has criticized the government's stance as blindly following the U.S. and has strongly opposed to such measures as dispatching Self-Defense Force (SDF) troops overseas in the fight on terror and on other missions. But the DPJ leadership has now made a policy switch, bearing a possible change in government in mind.

The DPJ leadership is ready to pour its energy into domestic affairs first after a switch in power. The party intends to try to solidify its basis by implementing policy measures that will lead to increasing the people's income, while it lays aside foreign and security policies, which could undermine relations with the U.S. depending on its approach.

The DPJ's foreign and defense department drew up a draft policy index in late June, based on the party's conventional policies, including a call for withdrawing MSDF troops from the Indian Ocean. But the leadership, including President Hatoyama, decided to give consideration to the U.S. and remove "thorns" from the draft.

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The DPJ was calling for drastically revising these four issues: (1) SOFA; (2) the agreed plan for realignment of U.S. forces in Japan; (3) aid for Afghanistan; and (4) the MSDF refueling operation in the Indian Ocean. U.S. Japan hands and others have told Hatoyama and Secretary General Katsuya Okada since last year that if the DPJ includes its calls for revisions on these four issues in its manifesto, they will regard the party as anti-U.S.

In the draft, the party demanded that the four points be totally reviewed, but the policy index used ambiguous expressions regarding SOFA and U.S. force realignment and removed the proposals on aid for Afghanistan and the MSDF mission. With respect to the government's plan to transfer the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station to somewhere in Okinawa, as well, the leadership decided to stop short of expressing its opposition.

Hatoyama and Okada had insisted since the Hatoyama leadership was launched in May that the U.S. should be prohibited to make a preemptive strike and that information should be disclosed on the alleged secret agreement to allow vessels carrying nuclear weapons to make port calls in Japan. But the DPJ also pushed these proposals backstage, probably based on the judgment that the revelation of its stance on these issues could generate a serious discussion that may lead to undermining the Japan-U.S. alliance.

The DPJ's policy switch is likely to generate side effects. In actuality, Social Democratic Party (SDP) President Fukushima has already reacted to the DPJ's decision to lay aside its opposition to the refueling mission.

In the House of Councillors, the DPJ does not have a majority on its own, so cooperation from the SDP is imperative. Given this, the DPJ cannot easily say it has given up on its proposals on the four issues. Asked by reporters yesterday about the party's stance over the relocation of the Futenma Air Station, Okada emphasized: "The party has not changed its policy." But he had to add: "We might discuss" the possibility of extending the refueling mission.

Aso criticizes DPJ's about-face as "inconsistent"

"Although the DPJ was raising strong objections (to overseas operations by the SDF), it has changed its stance just ahead of the general election. I think such a stance should indisputably be called 'inconsistent'." Prime Minister Aso harshly criticized the DPJ's policy switch last night. Aso was continued to be criticized for a lack of consistency on key policies.

The DPJ decided to oppose the extension of the refueling mission in the Indian Ocean beyond its expiration in November 2007. Then prime minister Abe tried to break the impasse by holding a meeting with then President Ozawa in September 2007. But Ozawa declined his request, and Abe stepped down.

In April 2008, the DPJ opposed the sympathy budget and an antipiracy bill, although the bill was enacted into law this June. The ruling camp has claimed that the cargo-inspection bill as part of sanctions against North Korea was scrapped because the DPJ boycotted Diet deliberations.

It has been reported that the LDP is fighting an uphill battle. The prime minister and the ruling camp hopes to use the DPJ's new policy

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similar to the government's conventional stance as material to attack it. They intend to grill the DPJ over its about-face and

underscore the propriety of the government's policies.

Meanwhile, bureaucrats are relieved at the DPJ's policy change. A government source said: "With an eye on a switch in power, the party naturally should opt for a pragmatic approach. A senior Foreign Ministry official also said: "We welcome the policy switch," pointing out that the DPJ's opposition to the refueling mission was stemming from its doubt that the refueled warships might have been involved in the Iraq war or air strikes against Afghanistan. He then made this analysis: "If the DPJ seizes the reins of government, it will acquire information, so it must have no reason for raising an objection." A senior Defense Ministry official also said with a sigh of relief: "I feel the party finally understood the situation."

(3) DPJ Policy Index 2009: Many benefits, heavy burden

YOMIURI (Page 3) (Excerpts)
July 24, 2009

The Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) on July 23 released its Policy Index 2009, a basic policy package, which will become the basis of its manifesto (campaign pledges). The package includes a number of direct payout-type allowances that appear to be proposed with the aim of winning voters' favor. Such a policy would require a large amount of fiscal spending. The package also incorporates items that will impose more financial burden on people. Are expenditures and revenues balanced? What roadmap will the DPJ follow? The party's approaches to some more challenges still remain to be revealed before the release of a manifesto at the end of the month.

DPJ Secretary General Okada made a public appeal in a street speech given in Numata City, Gunma Prefecture: "We will set up an administrative renewal council to take a second look at wasteful spending and abolish unnecessary expenditures."

The package is full of policy items that would directly benefit people, as a party official proudly said.

In the education area, for instance, the package proposes allowing anybody to enter high schools, if they wish, making public high school education free of tuition fees and providing subsidies (between about 120,000 and 240,000 yen) to private high school students as well.

As measures to address a staff shortage in the nursing-care area and a decline in the quality of workers, the package pledges to increase care-givers' wages by about 40,000 yen through a boost to nursing-care remunerations paid to business operators by 7 PERCENT . The DPJ says that this policy is for the sake of improving manpower, an approach that will materialize high-quality nursing care. This policy is to be implemented in a way of not leading to an increase in the share of care-receivers or nursing-care insurance premiums.

Such measures as establishing a system of compensating farm households' income to cover losses incurred by farmers and fishermen due to gaps between the cost of the cultivation of rice and other crops, and the sales prices of such or abolishing the provisional tax rate, etc., require massive amounts of fiscal resources.

The Index 2009 does not mention specific costs needed to finance

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those policies. However, according to a senior DPJ official, the full implementation of compensation for individual farm households' income will cost 1 trillion yen a year. Making highways toll-free will cost 1.5 trillion yen a year. Likewise, 5.3 trillion yen is needed for child allowance and 2.5 trillion yen for abolishing the provisional gas rate.

One hundred lawmakers to work in government agencies

The Index 2009 also includes a revision to the relationship between politicians and bureaucrats and a specific image of the reform of the organization of the government. In order to shift from bureaucratic leadership to political leadership, the package proposes more than 100 lawmakers of ruling parties enter the

government as cabinet ministers, senior vice ministers and parliamentary secretaries and take actual responsibility for policy planning and decision-making at central government agencies. However, it does not touch on the establishment of a state strategy bureau directly reporting to the prime minister, the idea the DPJ is now looking into. It will likely become made the showcase of the manifesto, which President Hatoyama will release.

Meanwhile, the Index 2009 notes the implementation of role-sharing between the central and local governments, and the private sector, by establishing an administrative renewal system (tentative name) tasked with identifying wasteful spending in administration as a whole and illicit administrative practices. To that end, the package pledges to cut the total employment cost of national government employees by 20 PERCENT, by drastically reform the organizations and staff quotas of government agencies.

The package also mentions establishing a new government tax system research council consisting of politicians under the finance ministry, by scrapping the ruling party's Tax System Research Commission and a ways and means committee, a standing committee to discuss revenues as a whole, such as tax revenues and social insurance premiums, in both chambers of the Diet. For political reform, the package mentions a cut in 80 seats in the proportional representation section of the Lower House. The number of seats in the Upper House will also be slashed possibly by 2013 through a drastic electoral system, according to the reduction of seats in the Lower House.

Taxes on some salaried workers to be hiked

The Index 2009 includes proposals that will lead to an increased share to be shouldered by people, such as the abolition of various tax income-deductive items. The DPJ's position is switching from tax deduction to paying allowances, based on the notion that income tax deduction is a system advantageous to high-income earners.

The ruling parties are strengthening criticism of DPJ policies as irresponsible because fiscal resources are unclear or scattering about pork-barrel largesse. The DPJ wants to indicate a stance of striking a balance between expenditures and revenues when it releases a formal manifesto, thereby addressing criticism from the ruling parties and anxieties felt by people. It will also reveal a roadmap and funding resources.

However, when the government's Tax Research Commission proposed reviewing income-tax deductive items in 2005, the DPJ fiercely opposed the proposal, even by setting up a headquarter on measures

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against hiking salaried workers' taxes. The DPJ is urged to explain to the people that its policies, including its policy shift from opposition to revising tax deductions to revising such, are consistent.

Major items in DPJ Index 2009 regarding which heavier burden is expected

Q Abolition of tax deduction for spouse: Increase in people's burden by about 600 billion in total due to abolition of 380,000 yen deduction

Q Tax abolition for dependents: Increase in people's burden by about 800 billion yen in total due to abolition of 380,000 yen deduction

Q Income ceiling for wage deduction: Increase in tax burden for some high-income earners

Q Establishing international solidarity tax: Consider taxation on specific cross-border economic activities

Q Tobacco tax: Look into taxation method in accordance with the influence of smoking on human health

Q Global warming prevention tax (tentative name): Abolish the provisional tax for special road-construction funds. Unify fuel taxes, such as the gas tax.

Major change in DPJ Index 2009

2008 2009

Foreign Affairs and defense

Opposition to extension of the New Antiterrorism Special Measures Law (suspension of refueling operations by the Maritime Self-Defense Force in the Indian Ocean) Deleted

Launch efforts to drastically amend the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) Proposed amendment to SOFA

Look into how to position US forces Japan (USFJ). Ceaseless verification of the implementation of USFJ-related budgets, such as the way USFJ realignment expenses should be shared and the sympathy budget for host nation support. Continue revisions to the USFJ realignment and the way USFJ bases should be.

Tenaciously pursue talks for the early package return of the Northern Territories. Tenaciously pursue talks for the early return of the Northern Territories.

Tax system

Maintain the sales tax rate. Seek popular judgment, by revealing the scope of a hike in the future, premised on consideration into drastic reform of the social security system. (additional proposal) Scrapping the ruling parties' Tax System Research Council and set up the government's tax council consisting of politicians under the finance ministry.

Political reform

Strongly call for realization of transparent political funds (additional proposal) Total ban on political funds donations by companies and organizations. No endorsement is to be given to candidates who are the spouse of and a relative within the three degree of relationship with incumbent lawmakers, when they run in an election in the same constituency.

Decentralization reform

Abolish subsidies and adopt a lump sum grant system, which local governments can use at their discretion. (additional proposal) Abolish a system of local government sharing the cost of central government-sponsored projects, thereby reducing the share of local governments.

(4) LDP slow to prepare manifesto, while DPJ pushing ahead with work

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steadily

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 3) (Full)
July 23, 2009

Works by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) to draw up their respective manifestos for the upcoming House of Representatives election are now in the final stage. The LDP is still engaged in drafting it in a great hurry, but the DPJ has already finished examining the contents of its manifesto. The party is groping for the best timing to announce it.

Timing for announcement

In a meeting of the secretaries general and policy research council chairmen of LDP local chapters yesterday, LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Kosuke Hori indicated that the party might delay the announcement of its policy manifesto to sometime in August. He said: "About 100 items have already been prepared for the manifesto, but they have less appeal. We would like to come up with a powerful manifesto by prolonging the work of compiling key points until just before the day of announcement of the election (on Aug. 18)."

Secretary General Hiroyuki Hosoda, Election Strategy Committee Vice Chairman Yoshihide, who chairs the project team to formulate a manifesto, and other senior members were busy yesterday hammering out eye-catching measures. But they decided to put off the intraparty procedures they had initially planned to take this week, pointing out the need to determining the timing for implementing each policy measure inserted in the manifesto.

The executive members delayed the work on purpose in a sense, stemming from a desire to avoid internal turmoil. If they come up with a draft at an early date, anti-Aso group members might accelerate the Aso-dumping move, claiming they cannot fight the election with this manifesto and.

The Aso-dumping move has quieted down, but party members "have

launched an election campaign before the party prepares its manifesto," as said by a junior member.

In the meantime, the DPJ has already ended the drafting of its manifesto. The prepared manifesto is being printed. In a conference held yesterday at party headquarters by officials in charge of elections from prefectural chapters, Policy Research Council Chairman Masayuki Naoshima outlined the manifesto. Starting on Aug. 3, the party will hold briefings on the manifesto across the nation first in the Kinki proportional representation bloc. A senior party member explained why the party has not released the already prepared manifesto: "If we announce it at an early date, the LDP may copy our campaign pledges." Looking askance at moves by the LDP, the DPJ intends to release its manifesto by the end of this month.

Many of the would-be candidates who have already launched an election campaign are calling on the party leadership to quickly announce its manifesto. Reflecting such voices, the party distributed to all would-be candidates copies of a 14-item description about key points in major policies on July 16. The description includes even a list of potential questions and answers on the assumption of criticism coming from the LDP.

How to adopt a manifesto

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The two parties' process of forming and adopting their manifestos also show different levels of their intraparty unity.

In the LDP, Prime Minister Taro picked Suga, his close aide, as head of the team in April in an attempt to have his wishes reflected in the manifesto. But in fierce reaction to Suga's proposal for placing restrictions on the hereditary succession of legislators, veteran lawmakers tried to block Suga from assuming the post.

In the end, Suga became project team head, but a manifesto-drafting committee composed of senior party members, including Hosoda, was set up over the project team. Suga drafted the manifesto in cooperation with Deputy Secretary General Nobutaka Ishihara, Policy Research Council Deputy Chairman and other several party members, but some party members complained that it is unclear which body is drafting the manifesto.

In contrast, the DPJ set up a manifesto preparation committee headed by Naoshima when the Hatoyama leadership was launched in May. This body engaged in drafting the party's new manifesto in its meetings held every day and received approval from party executives, including President Yukio Hatoyama.

The preparation committee is composed of 11 mid-ranking or junior members, including Naoshima and Policy Research Council Deputy Chairman Akira Nagatsuma. Some party members suggested that more influential persons should be included among panel members, but the panel drafted the party's manifesto.

LDP's mechanism to formulate manifesto

LDP
President Taro Aso
Executive Council
Policy Deliberation Committee

This group makes a final decision, based on reports made by the manifesto-formation committee (Hosoda, Policy Research Council Chairman Kosuke Hori and others). This committee receives reports from the project team (Suga, Ishihara, Sonoda and others) and also receives requests from the joint manifesto conference (composed of nine LDP groups). The project team makes reports to the said committee, based on requests from the joint conference and party departments, as well as based on advice made by the reform implementation taskforce.

DPJ's mechanism to formulate manifesto

DPJ

President Yukio Hatoyama
Deputy President Ichiro Ozawa
Deputy President Naoto Kan
Upper House Chairman Azuma Koshiishi
Secretary General Katsuya Okada

This group gives instructions to the manifesto preparation committee (Nagashima, Nagatsuma, Policy Research Council Deputy Chairman Tetsuro Fukuyama and others). The committee drafts a manifesto, based on proposals from department conferences and hands it over to the leadership. The leadership makes a final decision.

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(5) Watanabe's new party in limbo: Envisioned 'massive defection from LDP' has not materialized, may try to recruit DPJ Diet members

YOMIURI (Page 4) (Full)
July 24, 2009

Dark clouds hang over the plan of former Administrative Reform Minister Yoshimi Watanabe, who has left the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), to form a new party. This is because no progress has been made in his original scenario of forming a party to receive the massive defection of anti-Aso forces from the LDP. The question now is whether he can start a party of "at least five Diet members (including former House of Representatives members)," which will give it privileges in terms of TV broadcasting of policies, the number of leaflets it can hand out, and so forth, before the official declaration of candidacy for the Lower House election.

Watanabe is stepping up preparations to form a new party by early August. He advertises his party as "anti-bureaucratic" and aspires to be the "third force." He told reporters at the Diet on July 23: "We have already gathered the people. I have the responsibility to form the new party. My plan to form the party before the Lower House election remains unchanged."

Since leaving the party in January, Watanabe has formed the policy group "Nihon no Yoake (Japan's Dawn)" with Lower House member Kenji Eda, an independent, in preparation for founding a new party. He has asked his close friends, LDP Lower House members Taro Kono and Zentaro Kamei, as well as some of the "Koizumi children" who will not be able to run in single-seat constituencies to join the party.

However, no one had agreed to join Watanabe's party until the Diet was dissolved this week. One LDP Diet member serving his first term says: "I agree with his policies, but it will be extremely difficult to win in the single-seat constituencies outside of the LDP and the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ). There is also no time to persuade my supporters in the constituency."

Nevertheless, Watanabe is in final stage of coordination with Lower House member Koichi Yamauchi, who left the LDP on July 21, on membership in the new party. Yamauchi wrote in his own blog on July 23: "I will strive not to be the 'only martyr of the Koizumi structural reform line'." Lower House member Motoko Hirotsu, who will not be recognized as the LDP's official candidate, also told reporters at the party headquarters on July 23 that she is contemplating leaving the party, indicating the "possibility" of joining Watanabe's new party.

Meanwhile, DPJ House of Councillors member Keiichiro Asao has indicated his intention of running in the Lower House's fourth district of Kanagawa, where there is already an official DPJ candidate. Watanabe says: "I'd like to go and propose to him." He has been telling people around him that: "Quality is more important than quantity. We are aiming for a party of a select few," indicating that he is still determined to form the new party at an early date. On the other hand, Eda is also looking at the possibility of forming the party after the Lower House election. The debate on the timing of forming the new party is approaching a critical stage.

(6) Move to form third political force for political realignment

ASAHI (Page 4) (Full)
July 23, 2009

Takeo Hiranuma, a former international trade and industry minister, and former Administrative Reform Minister Yoshimi Watanabe, who have bolted the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), are accelerating moves to create a "third political force." Hiranuma revealed yesterday a lineup of candidates to run in the forthcoming House of Representatives election as members of a "Hiranuma group." Watanabe also has been approaching LDP bolters. Casting skeptical gazes at the LDP, which is becoming increasingly chaotic, they have steadily been preparing for political realignment in the future.

Hiranuma group to field 15 candidates in general election

At a press conference on July 22 in Tokyo, Hiranuma announced the names of 15 members who are expected to run in the general election from the Hiranuma group as conservative independents. He stated: "I think the public hopes for a third political force. With an eye on political realignment, we want to create a new trend in the Japanese politics."

In addition to Minoru Kiuchi and Ryuji Koizumi, who were defeated by "assassin" candidates of the LDP in the 2005 Lower House election, the 15 candidates include former Diet members and their sons and local assembly members. Kiuchi, who attended the press briefing, said in a strong tone: "I have crawled from the pit of misfortune. I want to become a springboard for political realignment."

Since there are people who want to join the group, Hiranuma and other members will continue the work of selecting candidates up until Aug. 18 when the official campaign for the snap election will be kicked off. Hiranuma said: "The more the better. It would be better for us to have more than 20 members, nearly 30. The group seems to have a notion of forming a grand coalition should neither the LDP nor the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) win a majority of the Lower House.

Hiranuma initially was negative about forming a new party before the election, saying:

"I first think that forming a new party would be good, but we will run in the election as conservative independents of the Hiranuma group. We will heroically fight in the election as independent and consider a new party after the poll."

He then stressed that he would aim to rally together conservative lawmakers with a new party in mind. He stated: "I would like to create a third political force while calling together kindred spirits in the LDP and the DPJ."

However, he appears to have felt frustration because a strong favorable is blowing for the DPJ. At the press conference, Hiranuma sought to constrain the DPJ, arguing: "There is a possibility that (the donation problem involving DPJ President Yukio Hatoyama) will develop into a criminal case. The issue should be pursued thoroughly."

Watanabe approaching LDP bolters

In Takaoka City, Toyama Prefecture, Watanabe last night gave a speech to support a prefectural assembly man, who is believed to run

as a candidate of a "Watanabe New Party" in the 3rd district in Toyama. He said:

"The LDP will soon come to the end. It is like the Titanic. We have already prepared the lifeboat, but they have yet to come down even though they know the ship called the LDP will sink."

Watanabe has clarified he will form a new party before the general

election and the new party will file candidates in all the 11 proportional representation blocs across the nation. He had initially tried to find a way to get a new party started around Lower House dissolution, but he changed his plan due to turmoil in the LDP. He looks for absorbing as many as LDP bolters and making such driving force for a "new party."

Former Lower House member Koichi Yamauchi, who had tendered his resignation on July 21 from the LDP, implied the possibility of joining hands with Watanabe at a meeting the same day with him, saying: "It is necessary to consider various possibilities."

Watanabe has said that many LDP members, who have growing sense of alarm about the election, asked him to support them. On July 22, as well, an LDP member had a talk with him. Watanabe looked confident as he said: "LDP members will continue to leave the party."

Watanabe has been wary about the DPJ's strength. He intends to differentiate himself from the DPJ by emphasizing the necessity of political realignment, centering on "reform of Kasumigaseki (government offices). However, how far his idea will become well-known to the public is unknown.

(7) New Komeito gradually distancing itself from LDP

ASAHI (Page 4) (Full)
July 24, 2009

Akihiro Yamada

The New Komeito, the junior coalition partner of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is increasingly alarmed about the possibility of it becoming embroiled in an adverse wind blowing against the LDP because Prime Minister Taro Aso dissolved the House of Representatives when his hand was forced to do so. Since the New Komeito must cooperate with the LDP in order to keep its Lower House seats, it is ostensibly falling in step with the LDP by attacking the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ). But with an eye on the upcoming Lower House election, the New Komeito is gradually distancing itself from the LDP.

At a Tokyo hotel on July 23, LDP Secretary General Hiroyuki Hosoda, New Komeito Secretary General Kazuo Kitagawa and other officials, who are responsible for election affairs, agreed that the two parties would call on the DPJ to hold policy debate, including a party heads debate between LDP President Aso and DPJ President Yukio Hatoyama.

However, the New Komeito has mixed feelings. When moves to oust Aso as prime minister spread in the LDP after the LDP and New Komeito had lost a majority of seats on the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, some New Komeito members looked forward to Aso's resignation. But the anti-Aso movement fizzled. A senior New Komeito member complained: "I do not at all understand the intention of the LDP,

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which will end up with a crushing defeat at the polls under Prime Minister Aso' leadership." The member was adamant that the New Komeito would carry out election campaign to survive.

At a meeting of senior party members held immediately before the Lower House was dissolved on July 21, the New Komeito discussed election strategy of winning the snap election under the unpopular Aso's leadership. In it, Kitagawa proposed intensifying criticism of the DPJ, saying: "We will focus on the DPJ's fiscal policy, dangerous security policy, and President Hatoyama's political funds scandal." He also emphasized the party's effort to give the LDP earful, noting: "Voters are dissatisfied with the LDP and they are concerned about the DPJ. We have told the LDP about public discontent."

The New Komeito was refraining from criticizing the LDP, aiming at encroaching upon conservative voters. However, New Komeito leader Akihiro Ota, in an outdoor speech on July 21, underscored: "We have to begin conducting clean politics in terms of the issue of 'money and politics.' The New Komeito is more qualified than the LDP and

DPJ in that sense." The New Komeito is desperately trying to strengthen its political identity, since it is unavoidable to prevent a decrease in the number of votes the LDP will secure in the general election.

At the same time, the New Komeito is taking a strategy of not delving deep into how it should cooperate with the LDP should they lose the race. At the meeting on July 21, senior New Komeito officials confirmed that if the media asked how the party would respond after the election, but it would not answer but emphasize its effort to win the poll along with the LDP.

In the New Komeito, a senior member said: "If we become an opposition party, there will be no meaning to form a coalition with the LDP. We will make a decision on an issue-by-issue basis." Some members are considering a coalition with the DPJ.

One mid-level member said: "If a DPJ-led administration is formed, there will be a rift between the DPJ and Social Democratic Party (SDP) on security policy. The DPJ, which does not have a single-party majority in the House of Councillors, would ask the New Komeito for cooperation."

(8) The DPJ Hatoyama administration's "plan for remodeling Japan"

SHUKAN BUNSHUN (Pages 24-26) (Full)
July 30, 2009

Three calls of "banzai" resonate in the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) headquarters on August 30. This historic moment marks the first genuine change of administration in 54 years since the merger of conservative parties (in 1955) or 16 years since the Hosokawa coalition government (of 1993). If the above really comes to pass, how will the "Hatoyama administration" proceed?

First, the law requires the convening of a special Diet session for the election of the prime minister within 30 days of the House of Representatives election. The DPJ plans to launch its "administration transition committee" during this period to eliminate the bureaucrats' intervention.

A reporter covering the DPJ explains: "First, the key cabinet

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ministers, the secretaries to the prime minister, and the party executives will be selected unofficially. The policies to be included in the first policy speech to the Diet will also be discussed. During the LDP era, bureaucrats of the Cabinet Affairs Office prepared the draft of this speech, but this will change."

The committee will also be tasked with coordinating with other parties.

A DPJ Lower House member says: "The date for convening the special Diet session will also be discussed. Five days after the election, representatives of the parties will be assembled and a ceremony to demand the handover of the offices of the LDP president and secretary general in the Diet is scheduled to take place. Since the rooms are assigned based on the number of Diet seats, the LDP will have to hand over a large number of rooms."

In mid-September, around two weeks after the election, the special Diet session will finally be held, and Yukio Hatoyama will be formally elected as the new prime minister.

What follows is the formation of the cabinet. During the LDP era, the news conferences of cabinet members were held only one day after the election of the prime minister. However, Jun Iio, professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies who is a key adviser to Hatoyama, reportedly has advised that there needs to be at least three days before the cabinet is formed.

Iio asserts that: "It will not do to have the bureaucrats prepare the notes for the news conferences. A live-in seminar of three days and two nights, off limits to the reporters, should be held in order to build team work among the ministers."

Then, what will the Hatoyama administration's cabinet lineup look like?

Ozawa eyes recruiting defectors from the LDP

The role of Principal Deputy President Ichiro Ozawa will probably attract the most attention.

One DPJ source says: "The first trial of his former secretary Takanori Okubo, who was arrested for the Nishimatsu scandal, is around November. He will probably not join the cabinet and remain the deputy president in charge of elections. After the Lower House election, he will most probably begin stumping all over the country for the House of Councillors election in July 2010. He has not given up on recruiting defectors from the LDP, and he plans to increase the number of 'Ozawa children' and exercise real power behind the scenes."

Meanwhile, Deputy President Naoto Kan is very likely to take up the post of chief cabinet secretary, a job he himself is interested in. However, many people criticize him for "getting carried away."

A senior DPJ official reveals: "He has been bustling with energy since the scandal about dead people contributing political funds to Mr Hatoyama was uncovered. He may have ambitions to become the prime minister, not to say the chief cabinet secretary. Even though administration transition is President Hatoyama's prerogative, he has gone to the UK to study the political system there, wrote up a 'report on the formation of the administration,' and even lectured

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Mr Hatoyama on this. The president was not interested though, telling him: 'Hmm, I see.' He once proposed abolishing the administrative vice ministers' meeting without consulting others, and the president had to deny any plan to abolish the body later on. He gives the impression of a one-man campaign to seek appointment."

As to Secretary General Katsuya Okada, a political journalist suggests: "He will probably get the position of finance minister to take care of the pending issue of dealing with the business sector. This will make good use of his background of being the son of the founder of the Aeon Group. Certain private sector people are pushing for Waseda University Professor Eisuke Sakakibara as finance minister, but he has too many enemies in Kasumigaseki. He himself says that he does not want to become a minister. He may get involved with the administration as an adviser. The name of Deputy Secretary General Yoshihiko Noda has been mentioned as possible choice to become the next secretary general."

There are also reports that Tama University President Jitsuro Terashima will be appointed as foreign minister from the private sector.

From the Social Democratic Party (SDP), a coalition partner, Kiyomi Tsujimoto is likely to join the cabinet as a woman appointee as the state minister for the declining birth rate. Normally, SDP leader Mizuho Fukushima would have been the choice for minister, but "she is unacceptable to the DPJ because she is the only one in the SDP clamoring for protection of the Constitution even though many Diet members are positive about forming a coalition and compromising on policies." (SDP source)

People's New Party (PNP) deputy leader Shizuka Kamei, who always has something to say on every single issue, will be troublesome for the DPJ.

"When Mr Hatoyama was going to appoint Mr Okada as secretary general, Kamei called from Washington to say that 'Okada, who is in favor of postal privatization, is absolutely unacceptable.' When Mr Hatoyama made a slip of the tongue, saying 'the coalition takes priority until we win a majority in the House of Councillors,' Kamei retorted furiously: 'Who would ever want to get married if you know you are going to be divorced after a year.' Since he is obsessed with power, he will no doubt demand a ministerial post." (reporter covering the opposition)

Keen on concluding Japan-Russia peace treaty

There is no lack of Diet members wanting to get on the band wagon. Independent Yoshimi Watanabe has told people around him that he is interested in joining the cabinet. New Party Nippon leader Yasuo Tanaka, who is running in the eighth district of Hyogo with the DPJ's support, is doing everything he can to sell himself.

"He is so confident and has told Election Campaign Committee Chairman Hirotaka Akamatsu that, 'I am more popular than the PNP. Even if I lose in the single-seat constituency, I will certainly get elected on the proportional representation ticket.' Either Mr Watanabe or Mr Tanaka will probably be named the administrative reform minister." (political reporter)

The trump card of the DPJ for its pet project of reforming Kasumigaseki is to appoint a politician to become the deputy chief

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cabinet secretary in charge of administrative affairs. By convention, a bureaucrat who has served as vice minister is appointed to this top bureaucratic post which presides over the administrative vice ministers' meeting.

"Hirohisa Fujii, a former Ministry of Finance (MOF) official, is tipped to become supreme adviser. His retirement from politics is believed to be certain, and he himself is keen to do this 'final public service.' Although his appointment will be unprecedented, he will be the perfect person to control the bureaucrats. Sakihito Ozawa, a confidant of Mr Hatoyama who is eager to become the chief cabinet secretary, can be named the deputy chief cabinet secretary in charge of parliamentary affairs." (above political journalist)

Hatoyama's diplomatic debut will come after the formation of the cabinet.

The climate change summit hosted by the UN secretary general will open on September 22, and he will give his speech before the leaders of the member states during the general debate at the UN General Assembly on September 23. The G-20 financial summit will also open on September 24.

"This will be an important General Assembly where the main themes are nuclear disarmament and the environment, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) thinks that the prime minister's absence is unthinkable. However, MOFA officials worry that even if Mr Hatoyama attends the assembly, he may only talk about his favorite topic of a 'fraternal society'." (reporter covering MOFA)

It is possible that an ad hoc Japan-U.S. summit may be scheduled before the UN General Assembly with Hatoyama flying to Washington for a three days-one night trip.

"The U.S. government has been collecting information on Mr Ozawa since the beginning of this year in anticipation of a possible DPJ administration, but they had not thought about a 'Prime Minister Hatoyama.' Former Ambassador Thomas Schieffer had also shown no interest in Mr Hatoyama. The U.S. is concerned about whether he will be able to build a consensus on foreign and security policy in his party. It is unlikely that Mr Hatoyama and President Barack Obama will get along like Mr Koizumi and Mr Bush. Even Mr Terashima, the candidate for foreign minister, does not have strong connections in the U.S. administration." (journalist familiar with the U.S. administration)

Hatoyama himself is still groping in the dark on Japan-U.S. relations. He has even asked Vice President Seiji Maehara: "Tell me whom I should talk to (in the U.S. administration)." On the other hand, he is confident about diplomacy with Russia.

"His grandfather, Ichiro Hatoyama, who was instrumental in the restoration of diplomatic relations between Japan and Soviet Union, is still very famous in Russia. He is also keen on signing a Japan-Russia peace treaty." (political journalist Koichi Kakutani)

In domestic politics, the DPJ will start working on the reform of Kasumigaseki.

Tactic to evade questioning on political fund scandal

The DPJ will announce a plan to create a new "national strategy

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bureau" reporting to the prime minister and formulate the outline of the budget over the head of the MOF Budget Bureau. It will also send a total of 100 ruling party Diet members to the bureaucracy, as ministers, senior vice ministers, and parliamentary secretaries, to demonstrate the will of the Prime Minister's Official Residence to grab the initiative.

"Bureaucrats with the rank of vice minister, who had never come to the DPJ before, are now visiting the Diet members' office building everyday. They have begun to do the rounds paying courtesy calls, clasping name cards stained by perspiration, bowing humbly, and saying 'please understand our policies,' or bringing with them photos taken during some inspection tour years ago and making greetings like 'I am so-and-so who met you at that time.' MOFA and defense bureaucrats are checking book shelves closely to get an idea of the Diet members' thinking." (mid-ranking DPJ Diet member)

The bureaucrats are nervous about the DPJ's Kasumigaseki reform. In fact, MOFA is expected to appoint Kanji Yamanouchi, who served as a secretary when Hatoyama was deputy chief cabinet secretary under the Hosokawa administration, as the prime minister's secretary. The MOF has also named Shunsuke Kagawa, who is close to Ozawa, as the deputy vice minister for policy planning and coordination. They are all making the shift to the DPJ.

However, Kasumigaseki frowns on the DPJ, which advocates suspending the execution of parts of the notorious pork-barrel supplementary budget and a review of the budget request ceilings. It reckons that "there will surely be chaos." (MOF bureaucrat)

"We will cut public work projects by the national government by half, including the discontinuation of the construction of the Yanba Dam in Ms Yuko Obuchi's constituency. The budget allocation for building an anime museum will be frozen immediately. We will identify revenues to the tune of 9.1 trillion yen by cutting wasteful spending, including a review of the practice of amakudari (golden parachute). (above-mentioned DPJ Lower House member)

While an extraordinary Diet session will have to be convened for the proposals to juggle allocations in the supplementary budget or to submit bills on the reform of the civil service system, "this will have to take place in October or later, since the DPJ needs to prepare as a ruling party, and there will be overseas trips to be made." (same source)

"There are those who propose not to convene the extraordinary Diet session and having the policy speech delivered at the special session, which is unrealistic. Perhaps, Mr Hatoyama will then not have to be questioned about his receiving donations from dead people." (Diet member close to Hatoyama)

In any case, cabinet resolutions will have to be passed on the policies included in the manifesto before the end of the year. Policies expected to be implemented in FY2010 include the introduction of a child allowance (13,000 yen or half the originally proposed amount in FY10 and FY11), toll free expressways, and free tuition for public high schools. Budget bills will be submitted to the regular Diet session and if all goes well, they will be enacted during the current fiscal year.

From the above, the DPJ's enthusiasm for "reform" is obvious. However, Nobuo Ishihara, who was deputy chief cabinet secretary for

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administrative affairs for seven years and three months from the Takeshita to the Murayama administrations, points out the following

problems for a Hatoyama administration: "The standard procedure of a constitutional government is to convene a special Diet session promptly, elect the prime minister, and form the cabinet. The government needs to be prepared to deal with contingencies at all times. How will the neutrality of the bureaucracy be maintained if a hundred politicians are sent into the administrative organizations? Furthermore, if so many policies requiring additional fiscal spending are to be implemented, the spending cutbacks will have to be clearly defined."

So much about the fraternal society. The DPJ will now bear a heavier responsibility to explain itself as a ruling party.

(9) Defense Bureau chief: No change to U.S. force realignment; Responding to (DPJ's) argument to relocate (Futenma) to site outside Okinawa

OKINAWA TIMES (Page 2) (Full)
July 24, 2009

The Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) plans to find a site outside Okinawa for the relocation of U.S. Futenma Air Station if it takes over the reins of government. Touching on this plan, Okinawa Defense Bureau Director-General Ro Manabe said yesterday: "We don't know what will happen to the framework of the administration in the future. Even if such a policy or discussion comes up, we must avoid it." Manabe reiterated the plan to implement U.S. force realignment at a regular informal meeting with reporters.

Manabe explained what was discussed on July 14 with Wallace Gregson, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific affairs, and others. Asked by the U.S. side about any technical difficulties for the relocation by 2014, Manabe said that he indicated that the production of a large caisson (for a work yard) and a stable supply of dirt for the massive landfill would be challenges.

He also said that asked about any legal problems regarding the environmental impact assessment procedures, he replied, "At this point in time, there are no major problems."

According to Manabe, Gregson said: "No other project is this complex. We appreciate the Okinawa Defense Bureau's work and the Japanese government which has invested (in the project) a variety of resources, including the budget."

(10) Looking back on regular Diet session: Anti-piracy law turning point in legislation for SDF deployment overseas, scope of operations abroad expanded

ASAHI (Page 4) (Full)
July 24, 2009

The most critical foreign and security policy issue in the regular Diet session was the anti-piracy law authorizing the deployment of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) for anti-piracy measures. While the SDF missions in the Indian Ocean and Iraq were implemented under special measures laws with limited terms, the anti-piracy law was meant to be the first permanent law since the UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) Law enacted in 1992. The scope of SDF operations overseas has been broadened further.

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The anti-piracy law started with an interpellation by Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) House of Representatives member Akihisa Nagashima last October at a Lower House special committee on the government's anti-piracy measures. Prime Minister Taro Aso responded then with: "We are willing to discuss this between the ruling and opposition parties." However, since the legislation process would take time, Aso issued an order for maritime security operations by the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) in March, authorizing the dispatch of two MSDF escorts. At the same time, the anti-piracy bill was submitted to the Diet.

In this mission, the MSDF has engaged in maritime security operations for a total of 41 times so far, escorting 121

Japan-related ships. Two MSDF P-3C reconnaissance aircraft were also dispatched in May to participate in surveillance from the air. However, the MSDF cannot legally protect foreign ships under maritime security operations and the use of weapons is limited only to legitimate self-defense or in an emergency. The government and the ruling parties wanted to enact an anti-piracy law at an early date that would allow the protection of all ships, including foreign ones, and shooting at ships refusing to follow orders to stop.

On the other hand, the DPJ drafted a counterproposal designating the Japan Coast Guard as primarily responsible for anti-piracy duties and requiring prior Diet approval if the SDF is going to be tapped.

Negotiations between the ruling and opposition parties to revise the original bill broke down, so the ruling parties enacted the law in the Lower House with a second vote. Troops dispatched for operations under the new law left Japan in early July and will begin operating toward the end of the month.

With the enactment of the anti-piracy law, it is now possible for the SDF to be dispatched to distant sea areas anytime and the use of force in the course of duty is now allowed for the SDF in its overseas missions for the first time. While the government claims that anti-piracy is a police operation, this law can be regarded as a turning point in legislation for SDF overseas missions. In the event of a shoot-out with pirates, this will be the first case of the SDF's use of weapons outside Japan.

The main points of contention in the Diet debate were the question of who would be primarily responsible for anti-piracy operations and the role of the Diet in this process. Very little discussion took place on the expansion of the SDF's powers overseas. The fate of the permanent law on SDF overseas missions, which the government and the ruling parties intend to enact, has become even more uncertain due to the possibility of a change of government.

At the recent Diet session, the bill on the approval of the agreement on the relocation of U.S. marines in Okinawa to Guam was passed despite the Upper House's rejection under the constitutional provision that the Lower House takes precedence in the approval for the conclusion of treaties.

There is nothing new in the treaty compared to the agreement reached between the Japanese and U.S. governments in 2006. However, the new agreement has been upgraded to a bilateral treaty, which means: (1) the U.S. marines will be relocated to Guam and the replacement facility for the Futenma Air Station will be constructed as planned; and (2) even if the DPJ takes over the government and calls for the

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review of the Futenma relocation plan, it will be difficult to shift gear due to the restrictions of the treaty.

(11) DPJ Secretary General Okada says a DPJ administration will issue order to present document of secret nuclear pact

RYUKYU SHIMPO (Page 1) (Full)
July 24, 2009

With respect to a secret nuclear pact allowing U.S. warships carrying nuclear weapons to pass through Japan's territorial waters and call at Japanese ports, Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) Secretary General Katsuya Okada announced a policy direction yesterday to have the foreign minister order the administrative vice-foreign minister to present the relevant document after his party takes over the reins of government. Okada said, "(The foreign minister) should issue an order to present the document in a proper fashion." He also expressed his view that if the Foreign Ministry refuses the order and (the DPJ administration) cannot uncover the truth, an investigative organ will be established outside the ministry. The plan was revealed in an interview with Kyodo News Service in the Diet building.

Investigative organ in the government

Even after some former administrative vice-foreign ministers,

including Ryohei Murata, admitted the existence of the secret nuclear pact, the government has been insisting, "There is no secret agreement." Okada's policy course to uncover the secret nuclear deal which has been managed in the bureaucracy-led system by building a politician-led decision-making system appears to reflect the stance of the party that aims at correcting the present politician-bureaucrat relationship in decision-making.

Regarding the allegation that the document for the secret agreement was destroyed before the enactment of the Information Disclosure Law in April 2001, Okada said: "If that is a fact, it is outrageous. If a document that must be retained was destroyed, that is a violation of the rule." Okada expressed his view that the matter should be dealt with severely if the destruction of the document is confirmed.

He also made the following comment about a former vice minister's statement: "The statement by a former vice minister is pressing the lawmakers to make a decision. I think it is impossible for an incumbent government official to acknowledge the existence of the secret nuclear deal." Okada emphasized a plan to have the lawmakers take responsibility for correcting the discrepancy between the explanation in Japan and the agreement with the United States once the DPJ party takes power.

While envisaging the Foreign Ministry's refusal to follow such an order, Okada also said, "If necessary, we will have to set up an investigative body (outside the ministry) to examine the matter thoroughly." He also applied pressure to the Foreign Ministry by saying that a refusal of the order would be a violation of the order to carry out duties.

About a statement that Foreign Ministry administrative officials at the time selectively reported the Prime Minister and the foreign minister on the secret nuclear pact, Okada said: "It's absurd. That clearly shows the power balance between the lawmakers and the

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bureaucracy."

(12) Poll on Aso cabinet, political parties

YOMIURI (Page 8) (Abridged)
July 24, 2009

Questions & Answers
(Figures shown in percentage)

Q: Do you support the Aso cabinet?

Yes 20.0
No 67.8
Other answers (O/A) 4.4
No answer (N/A) 7.8

Q: Which political party do you support now? Pick only one.

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) 25.3
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ or Minshuto) 31.0
New Komeito (NK) 3.4
Japanese Communist Party (JCP) 2.0
Social Democratic Party (SDP or Shaminto) 0.6
People's New Party (PNP or Kokumin Shinto) 0.5
Reform Club (RC or Kaikaku Kurabu) ---
New Party Nippon (NPN or Shinto Nippon) ---
Other political parties 0.2
None 32.3
N/A 4.6

Q: Are you interested in the general election to be held on Aug. 30 for the House of Representatives?

Very interested 56.3
Somewhat interested 31.3
Not very interested 8.9
Not interested at all 3.4

N/A 0.0

Q: Which political party's candidate are you going to vote for in the forthcoming election for the House of Representatives in your single-seat constituency?

LDP 24.5
DPJ 39.1
NK 3.0
JCP 2.3
SDP 1.1
PNP 0.7
RC ---
NPN 0.2
Other political parties 0.2
Independent 4.0
Undecided 20.2
N/A 4.7

Q: Which political party are you going to vote for in the forthcoming election for the House of Representatives in your proportional representation bloc?

LDP 23.2

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DPJ 41.7
NK 5.1
JCP 2.9
SDP 1.5
PNP 0.5
RC ---
NPN 0.1
Other political parties 0.4
Undecided 18.7
N/A 6.0

Q: Which political party would you not like to see gain more seats. If any, pick as many as you like from among those listed below.

LDP 29.3
DPJ 10.9
NK 18.4
JCP 12.7
SDP 6.0
PNP 1.3
RC 0.7
NPN 0.6
Other political parties 1.7
Nothing in particular 36.8
N/A 9.0

Q: Are you going to vote in the forthcoming election for the House of Representatives?

Yes, definitely (including early voting) 70.0
Yes, if possible 24.9
Probably not 2.1
No (abstain from voting) 2.8
N/A 0.2

Q: What will you place particular importance on when choosing a candidate or political party to vote for in the forthcoming election for the House of Representatives? If any, pick as many as you like from among those listed below.

Economy, job security 54.7
Social security, such as pension 65.5
Low birthrate, childcare 38.4
Taxation, such as consumption tax 40.1
Foreign, security policies 25.7
Central government reform 27.5
Decentralization 22.7
Politics and money 29.5
Other answers (O/A) 0.8
Nothing in particular 1.3

N/A 1.7

Q: When comparing Prime Minister Aso and DPJ President Hatoyama, who do you think is more appropriate to be prime minister?

Prime Minister Aso 22.1

DPJ President Hatoyama 39.8

N/A 38.1

Q: What kind of government would you like to see after the forthcoming election for the House of Representatives?

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LDP-led coalition government 14.7

DPJ-led coalition government 25.8

LDP-DPJ grand coalition government 22.2

Government under new framework through political realignment 29.2

O/A ---

N/A 8.1

Polling methodology: The survey was conducted July 21-23 across the nation on a computer-aided random digit dialing (RDD) basis. Households with one or more eligible voters totaled 1,750. Valid answers were obtained from 1,044 persons (59.7 PERCENT).

(Note) In some cases, the total percentage does not add up to 100 PERCENT due to rounding.

ZUMWALT